new Consumer Price Index (PCI) with 1982 as the base year has been compiled;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether all the Central Trade Unions were consulted in this regard; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The new series of Consumer Price Index Numbers will be more broad-based covering 7 sectors of employment, namely, factories, mines' plantations, motor transport, electricity generation and distribution, Ports & Docks and Railways, as against 3 sectors in the existing series with 1960 as the base year. The new series will use indices of 70 Centres all over the country as against 50 centres in the current all over the country as against 50 centries in the current series. In the case of rationed commodities, the new price index will take into account actual availability of supply at Fair Price Shops, rather than the admissible quantum. The number of markets covered has been increased from 142 to 226 The new series covers more items in the consumption basket as compared to the existing series;

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

1. Centre level—In all the 76 centres covered, available representatives of trade unions of workers, associations of employeers, concerned state Government officers were consulted on main working class areas and retail markets catering to them, by Labour Bureau Officers during 1980-81.

2. State level—Centre level discussions were followed by state level meetings at following places on dates given. In these meetings all recognised trade unions of workers, associations of employers at state level and concerned state government officers were invited to discuss (i) Selection of markets (ii) Price collection schedules (iii) Family budget schedule (iv) Centres selected, sample size fixed, selection of families etc.

Place	Date
1. Bombay	29 9.80
2. Poona	2.10.80
3. Bangalore	21 10.80
4. Panaji	25.10.80
5. Ahmedabad	26.11.80
6. Madras	3.12.80
7. Pondichery	4.12.80
8. Delhi	30.8.80
9. Calcutta	15.12.80, 20.1.81
10. Patna	20.12.80
11. Kanpur	23.12.80
12. Trivandrum	6.1.81
13. Haderabad	9.1.81
14. Bhubaneswar	17.1.81
15. Indore	3.2.81
16. Jaipur	6.2.81
17. Gauhati	26.2.81

A national level tripartite meeting was held at Delhi on 8.1.87 to discuss the new index with 1982 as the base year. This was followed by five regional tripartite meetings at the following places:

Place	Date
1. Kanpur	20.2.87
2. Madras	3.3.87
3. Bombay	6.3.87
4. Delhi	18.3.87
5. Calcutta	2.7.87

Sick Textile Mills

*25. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of textile mills that have fallen sick since the introduction of the new Textile Policy;

(b) whether the main causes have been analysed; and

(c) whether any remedial measures have been taken to revive these sick mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) The number of cotton textile units that have fallen sick and have closed down since the introduction of the June, 1985 Textile Policy is 53.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir.

Coco Island as American Base

*26. SHRI P. N. SUKUL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that during his recent visit to the United States Mr. U. Ne Win, Chairman of the ruling Burmese Socialist Programme Party has offered the little Coco Island to the United States for having the latter's marine corps base there; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction to this offer which poses a serious threat to our country's security?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Government are aware of speculative and unconfirmed press reports to this effect.

(b) Government are always alert to any developments having a bearing on India's security.

Illegal occupation of Indian Territory by Bangladesh

*27. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Assam Government has asked the Central Government to take immediate steps at appropriate level for the recovery of an eight kilometre strip of land in Mankachar area in Dhubri District presently under illegal occupation of Bangladesh; and

(b) if so, what has been the Central Government's response thereto and what action has been initiated in this regard and with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) Government has seen newspaper reports to this effect, Baraibari, an area which measures about 191.44 across in Mankachar in the Dhubri District of Assam, is at present in the adverse possession of Bangladesh. Under the provisions of the Land Boundary Agreement of 1974 this area will become part of India after the Agreement is ratified.

News-item Captioned "Counter-Trade deal with Iran in Dumps"

*28. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Counter-trade deal with Iran in dumps" which appeared in the Times of India of the 30th June, 1987;

(b) if so, what are the causes responsible for such a situation;

(c) how far this will affect India's trade and foreign exchange position; and

(d) what steps are being taken by Government to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is a divergence in the interpretation of the agreement